

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 CU-02 OMB-01 /059 W

----- 104738

R 090800Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8750

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 0151

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PASS SONGKHLA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS MARR MY TH

SUBJ: MALAYSIA-THAI BORDER COMMITTEE MEETING

REF: A. FBIS BANGKOK 070230Z JAN 75 (NOTAL)

B. FBIS BANGKOK 071038Z JAN 75 (NOTAL)

C. KL A-144, 10/24/74 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: SEMI-ANNUAL MALAYSIA-THAI BORDER COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD JAN 6-7 WITH USUAL SURFACE CORDIALITY, BUT DELIBERATIONS WERE CLOUDED BY ISSUE OF MALAYSIAN POLICE PERSONNEL STATIONED IN SOUTHERN THAI BORDER PROVINCES. END SUMMARY.

2. NINETEENTH SESSION OF MALAYSIA-THAI GENERAL BORDER COMMITTEE (GBC) WAS HELD IN KL JAN 6-7 AMID USUAL EFFUSIVE EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL GOODWILL. THAI DELEGATION WAS HEADED
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BY GEN. KRIANGSAK CHOMANAN, ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF, AND

INCLUDED MAJ. GEN SAN CHITPATIMA, COMMANDER OF RTG FORCES IN SOUTHERN THAILAND. DR. KOSOL SINDHVANANDA, WHO WAS THAI EMBASSY FIRST SECY HERE UNTIL MID-1973, WAS FOREIGN MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE. GOM DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER GHAZALI SHAFIE AND INCLUDED ACTING POLICE INSPECTOR-GENERAL HANIFF OMAR, ARMED FORCES STAFF CHIEF GEN. IBRAHIM ISMAIL AND OTHER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES.

3. IN OPENING REMARKS JAN 6, GHAZALI LAVISHLY PRAISED GEN. KRIANGSAK PERSONALLY, NOTING HIS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH GBC AS DEPUTY TO FORMER GBC REPRESENTATIVE AIR MARSHAL DAWEE. GEN. KRIANGSAK PLEDGED CONTINUING RTG SUPPORT OF ANTI-COMMUNIST TERRORIST OPERATIONS IN BORDER AREA. CLOSING REMARKS JAN 7 BY GHAZALI INCLUDED OBSERVATION THAT COMMUNISTS ARE NOW "IN DISARRAY AND FURTIVELY GLANCING AT EACH OTHER IN DISTRUST" BECAUSE OF THREE-WAY SPLIT OF MALAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY (MCP). ALSO, HE SAID COMMUNISTS HAVE EXPANDED EFFORT TO INFILTRATE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO STIMULATE POPULAR UNREST. GHAZALI VOWED TO INCREASE VIGILANCE IN EXPECTATION THAT MCP "FRACTIONS" (SIC) WILL INTENSIFY EFFORTS "TO WOO POPULAR SUPPORT BY TRICKS AND WITH MANIPULATIONS." IN MORE SOMBER TONE, GEN. KRIANGSAK SAID MCP SPLIT DESERVES FURTHER STUDY BUT "DISCORD COULD BE TO OUR MUTUAL ADVANTAGE." HE ALSO SAID RTG WOULD PURSUE COMMON ANTI-COMMUNIST OBJECTIVES "WITH UNRELENTING VIGOR."

4. ALTHOUGH WE WERE TOLD EARLIER BY THAI EMBOFF THAT RTG DID NOT PLAN TO RAISE ISSUE OF MALAYSIAN POLICE PERSONNEL STATIONED IN SOUTHERN THAILAND, WE UNDERSTAND THAT GBC SESSION WAS CLOUDED BY THAI PRESS ACCOUNTS OF REMARKS BY GEN. SAN CHITPATIMA TO EFFECT THAT MALAYSIAN PRESENCE THERE CONSTITUTES DEROGATION OF THAI SOVEREIGNTY (REF A AND B). RELIABLE PRESS SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOM FOREIGN MINISTRY ATTEMPTED TO PLANT QUESTIONS AMONG REPORTERS TO DRAW OUT SAN AND THAI DELEGATION ON THIS POINT. THUS FAR, LOCAL MEDIA HAS NOT REPORTED RESULTS OF THESE QUERIES WHICH WERE TO HAVE BEEN LEVELLED AT PRESS CONFERENCE JAN. 7.

5. COMMENT: EFFECT OF GEN. SAN'S REMARKS ON MALAYSIAN-THAI BORDER RELATIONS CANNOT BE PREDICTED AT THIS POINT BUT
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WE HAVE OBSERVED IN PAST THAT SURFACE CORDIALITY OF GRC SESSIONS HAS BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY RTG SUSPICIONS OF MALAYSIAN INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS MUSLIM DISAFFECTION IN SOUTHERN PROVINCES AND BY GOM DISSATISFACTION WITH THAI COOPERATION IN ELIMINATING MCP TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN BORDER AREA.
UNDERHILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, PARAMILITARY FORCES, BORDER CONTROLS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KUALA00151
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750008-1212
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750166/aaaacgaz.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 FBIS BANGKOK 070230Z, 75 JAN 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAYSIA-THAI BORDER COMMITTEE MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MARR, MY, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006